

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW LEPTODESMOID DIPLOPOD FROM
LOUISIANA.

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The new diplopod here described is represented in a collection of Myriopods made in and near New Orleans by Mr. H. Edward Hubert, by whom it was transmitted to me for identification. Other diplopods occurring in the material are *Polydesmus serratus* Say, *Callipus lactarius* (Say), *Paraujlus impressus* (Say), and *Spirobolus marginatus* (Say). The chilopods occurring are *Scutigera forceps* (Raf.), *Neolithobius transmarinus* (Koch), *Scolopendra viridis* Say, *Hemiscolopendra punctiventris* (Newport), *Theatops posticus* (Say), *Arenophilus bipuncticeps* (Wood) and *Linotaenia fulva* (Sager).

In addition to the genus here described, two other unnamed genera of leptodesmids occur in the eastern part of the United States, these being characterized primarily by types of structure in the male gonopods different from those of the one discussed below and of the western North American genera. The first of these may be designated **Semionellus**, with *Leptodesmus placidus* Wood as the genotype. The second may bear the name **Dicellarius**, with *Leptodesmus okefenokensis* Chamberlin the genotype.

Eurymerodesmus, Biöleemann.

Antennae filiform; joints two to five subequal, the sixth scarcely longer; the normal four sensory cones.

Collum of usual proportions, as wide as the second tergite or but little narrower.

All tergites wholly smooth; keels but moderately extended; margins thickened, entire, smooth; anterior angles rounded, the posterior from

rounded to subrectangular excepting in posterior segments where moderately produced. Pores distinctly lateral, present on segments 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-19.

Distinguished especially by the form of the gonopods in the male. These comparatively small and in considerable part concealed. The salient feature is that the telopodite presents only a single, unbranched, slender blade arising from a robust proximal division. In the known species long setae occur along the ectal side of the gonopods, sometimes continuing upon the blade, and there is at the distal end of the proximal division a separate series of stout setae.

Genotype.—*Paradesmus hispidipes*, Wood.

In addition to the genotype, *E. simplex*, sp. nov. also belongs in this genus.

***Eurymerodesmus simplex*, sp. nov.**

This is a smaller and paler species than *E. hispidipes* (Wood), a form common in some parts of Louisiana and ranging northward to Illinois. The color of the types is fulvous throughout, the dorsum very slightly darkened with the carinae a little paler, without definite median line or other markings.

Tergites well arched, smooth throughout.

Head smooth. Vertigial sulcus deep, ending near upper level of antennal sockets. Antennae filiform, the ultimate article alone narrowed; when bent back reaching upon the third tergite.

Collum strongly bowed forward, the median region of margin more flattened. Posterior margin at middle straight or weakly incurved, laterally bending cephalad of ectad. Lateral ends narrowly rounded.

In the succeeding tergites the anterior corners of the keels are all well rounded. In the most anterior tergites the caudal margins of the keels run obliquely out forward of ectad, becoming more and more nearly transverse in going caudad, the posterior finally becoming produced usually beginning with the thirteenth or fourteenth tergite, the processes becoming thereafter more and more pronounced to the nineteenth. The lateral margin of keels as seen from above smooth and moderately convex. Last tergite subtriangular, sides a little incurving, tip narrowly truncate, scarcely depressed. Valves with mesal borders thickened, submarginate. Anal scale subtriangular in general outline, but the anterior margin curving caudad at ends and the apex or caudal angle rounded.

Conical processes between coxae of second legs of sixth segment apically bending caudad. The similar processes between coxae of legs of seventh segment bending forwards against gonopods or near to them.

Gonopods of the male with the thickened proximal division elongate, moderately clavately thickening distad. Blade short, in length not much exceeding greatest thickness of basal division and equalled or exceeded by the length of the distal setae; arising at ectal edge of base, distally curved a little ectad, slender.

Length, to near 24 mm.; width, 3.8 mm. 4 mm.

Four specimens taken at New Orleans in 1918.

Readily separable from *E. hispidipes* (Wood) in the characters of the gonopods, the basal division being much longer, the distal blade shorter and wholly glabrous instead of bearing hairs throughout as does *hispidipes*.



